

in its new station. Possibly, too, this note may bring forth information from other herbaria concerning this vagrant; specimens of which have been placed in the Herbarium of the New England Botanical Club.

In this pleasant task I have had the advice and assistance of Mr. J. Francis Macbride, who, in connection with his own technical and critical studies in the revision of the Boraginaceae at the Gray Herbarium, has carefully determined all the collections which I have mentioned.

DORCHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS.

PRUNUS VIRGINIANA THE CORRECT NAME OF THE CHOKE CHERRY.

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THE Choke Cherry of the northern United States and Canada, characterized by having the comparatively short leaves with sharp fine serrations and the crimson fruit in comparatively short racemes, has in recent years been generally known as *Prunus virginiana* L. or, by those who treat it as belonging to a separate genus, *Padus virginiana* (L.) Mill.; while the more southern Black or Rum Cherry, having longer leaves with short incurved blunter teeth and more elongated racemes of purplish-black cherries on purplish pedicels, has been generally known as *Prunus serotina* Ehrh. Very recently however the Choke Cherry has appeared in American literature¹ under the name *Padus nana* (Du Roi) Roemer, while the Black Cherry is called *Padus virginiana* (L.) Mill. This change from established usage in the interpretation of the specific name *virginiana* based upon *Prunus virginiana* arises, apparently, through a somewhat natural misinterpretation as to exactly what Linnaeus had. The Linnean treatment of *Prunus virginiana* was as follows:

“PRUNUS floribus racemosis, foliis deciduis basi antice *Virginiana*. glandulosis.

Cerasus sylvestris, fructu nigricante in racemis longis pendulis phytolaccae instar congestis. *Gron. virg.* 54. *Roy. lugdb.* 537.

¹ Britton in Britton & Brown, Ill. Fl. ii. 329 (1913).

*Cerasi similis arbuscula mariana, padi folio, flore albo
parvo racemoso. Pluk. mant. 43. t. 339. Catesb.
car. i. p. 28. t. 28.*

Habitat in Virginia."¹

From this description it appears that Linnaeus gave an original diagnosis and originated the name *virginiana*, and that to the species described and so named he ascribed as synonyms the earlier "*Cerasus sylvestris*" of Gronovius and of Royen and the "*Cerasus similis arbuscula*" etc. of Plukenet and of Catesby. The description by Gronovius and the identical description by Royen leave no question that they were referring to the Black Cherry. In fact, Gronovius, in his second edition, cites *Clayton* No. 627, which, as shown by the type material examined by Dr. Gray in 1869, was the Black Cherry, indicated by Dr. Gray in his notes as "*Prunus serotina!*" Similarly, Catesby's figure and description belong clearly to *P. serotina* as recently understood; but the Plukenet figure, as recorded by Dr. Gray in a manuscript upon the original sources, is "*Itea virginica!*" In the first half of the 19th century the name *Prunus serotina* was used for the Choke Cherry and *P. virginiana* for the Black Cherry, just the reverse of recent usages, so that it is not surprising that there has been much confusion as to which name belonged to either species. The original Linnean element of *Prunus virginiana*, however, the plant which furnished the Linnean diagnosis and which Linnaeus marked "*Virginiana*" in his herbarium, differs from the material which he cites in synonymy, and is the true Choke Cherry. This is indicated by Dr. Gray's manuscript notes made upon examination of the Linnean herbarium at different times. Three times he specially notes this type, once, in 1839, when the Choke Cherry was generally called *Prunus serotina*, saying "*Prunus Virginiana!* Linnaeus' specimens are *Prunus serotina* [in the old sense] (Choke-Cherry!) with the sharply mucronate serrations, erect racemes, etc." The other two records, made in 1869 and in 1881, merely reaffirm the conclusions of the earlier examination by recording in manuscript: "*Prunus Virginiana* = Choke cherry." From this evidence it would appear that the real type of *Prunus virginiana* is the Choke Cherry and that only confusion can arise by changing the long established and correct application of the name.

GRAY HERBARIUM.

¹ Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. i. 473 (1753).